GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2682
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Funds for Panchayati Raj Programmes
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized by various States of the country for the implementation of various schemes/programmes of the Ministry during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether funds are being utilized by the State Governments as per the prescribed norms and if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether any further funds/balance funds are proposed to be released to the States particularly to Odisha and if so, the details thereof including the time by which the funds are likely to be released, State/UT-wise;
(d) whether the Government proposes to organize any programme to make the representatives an officers of the Panchayats aware of their duties and responsibilities and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to aid and develop healthy financial governance system in PRIs and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) Ministry of Panchayati Raj was implementing two major Schemes namely Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) and District Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The State Component of RGPSA and the District Component of BRGF has been delinked from budgetary support of Central Government w.e.f. 2015-16. The details of funds allocated, released and utilized by various States during the last three years and current year under RGPSA and BRGF programmes are at Annexures I and II respectively.

(b) The States are utilising the funds as per guidelines and also in line with the specific observations of Central Executive Committee (CEC), if any, while approving the respective proposals under RGPSA. Under BRGF, utilisation of funds was regularly monitored through various documents viz. periodical physical and financial progress reports, utilization certificates, audit reports of statutory auditors, etc., submitted by the State Governments. Guidelines also provided for audit of works through a Review Committee at the District Level and Social Audit and inspection at the Panchayat levels. The utilization is also reviewed at the Ministry level in the meetings of State Panchayati Raj Secretaries.

(c) Under RGPSA, further release of funds to the States, including Odisha depends on receipt of proposals, utilisation of funds released in the previous years and availability of funds under the scheme. The proposal from Odisha has yet not been received under RGPSA for the current year.

(d) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been providing financial assistance to States for imparting training to Elected Representatives (ERs)/ Panchayat Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on wide ranging topics relevant to their functioning including duties & responsibilities of ERs of PRIs.

(e) The Government provides proactive support to States to develop convergent local development plans, capacity building of elected representatives, Panchayat functionaries and other stakeholders, improving institutional support structures and for developing state specific budgeting, accounting and auditing manuals to improve the functioning of these grassroots level local self-governments for proper and efficient utilisation of resources. Besides, to facilitate better monitoring of the release and utilisation of grants and progress of preparation and approval of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), an online system (MIS) has been developed and is reviewed periodically with the States. PRIASoft and PlanPlus are the two important Applications under e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project developed by the Ministry for adoption by the States that foster transparency and accountability in the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions

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